

encouragement; it's what excites people to keep marching out and buying new homes.

My story has a happy ending, though not the type you're likely to see on HGTV. Several weeks after our initial bid fell through (it seemed like years) our excellent realtor Vince—who, incidentally, could eat the realtors on "House Hunters" for breakfast—found us the perfect home and shrewdly snuck us in before the open house, pre-empting a bidding war by submitting a take-it-or-leave-it offer that cut out the competition. (I expect Vince will be surprised to learn he's been nominated for a Congressional Medal of Honor.)

Impending homeownership has brought with it complicated new challenges, so I've turned to my wellspring of wisdom for guidance. I now possess a master gardener's understanding of landscaping, and I'm confident that I can parry most of the feminine-looking accoutrements with which my fiancée seems intent upon decorating our new home. In fact, there's only one area where I've come up empty. I've searched in vain for a show called "Mortgage Hunters," but none seems to exist—perhaps there are aspects of home buying that even HGTV can't spin into fantasy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, due to thunderstorms in Atlanta yesterday my plane was delayed and I missed the following votes: Roll call no. 354, roll call no. 355, roll call no. 356, and roll call no. 357. Had I been present I would have voted no on all of these votes.

FOREIGN COURT PRECEDENTS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member agrees with the sentiments expressed in a July 11, 2003, Omaha World-Herald editorial entitled "Courting foreign ideas." In the recent Supreme Court decision overturning a Texas sodomy law (*Lawrence v. Texas*), the majority opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy cites a 1981 European Court of Human Rights decision as evidence that state sodomy laws are not founded in Western tradition.

Regardless of what one's position is on state sodomy laws, Supreme Court decisions should be (and, of course, generally are) based on the U.S. Constitution and U.S. legal precedent. This citation contributes to a damaging and dangerous precedent; this practice should end. While this Member is a long-time supporter of a strong transatlantic relationship, European or other foreign court actions, laws or traditions should not be cited in U.S. court cases.

This Member requests that the Omaha World-Herald editorial be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, July 11, 2003]

COURTING FOREIGN IDEAS

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence vs. Texas* has stirred political con-

trovery, and not just for what it may or may not mean for gay marriage. Its reference to a European Court of Human Rights decision has spawned a furor over whether the justices will adopt foreign courts' views of individual liberties.

We welcomed the outcome of the case, which overturned a Texas sodomy law. But we're taken aback that a U.S. court, particularly the highest one, could so boldly open itself to foreign precedents.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion in the Texas case, cited the European courts 1981 decision as evidence that state sodomy laws are not founded in Western tradition.

Past U.S. laws and traditions are referenced heavily in many court decisions. American laws are certainly founded on the nation's Western heritage, especially that of the British legal system. But the U.S. Supreme Court is charged with upholding the U.S. Constitution and U.S. legal precedent.

In the 227 years of this nation's history, American laws and norms have developed apart from those of other nations, even those with similar concepts of liberty and rights. The death penalty and gun control are important issues on which U.S. and European laws, for instance, differ.

Are U.S. citizens now to be bound by other countries' laws and constitutions? Who will choose which countries' laws are fit and applicable and which are not? In his dissent to the Texas ruling, Justice Antonio Scalia, decried the foreign citation.

"Constitutional elements do not spring into existence . . . as the Court seems to believe, because foreign nations decriminalize conduct," Scalia wrote.

We agree. It's a course several justices seem inclined to pursue, unfortunately.

"Our Constitution and how it fits into the governing documents of other nations, I think, will be a challenge for the next generations," Justice Stephen Breyer said on a Sunday morning talk show.

Foreign laws and ideals that become broadly accepted by the U.S. populace certainly can be adopted into U.S. law—by their elected representatives, in Congress. That's a legislative function, not a judicial one. The guardians of our Constitution should know that and abide by it.

HONORING COLONEL LLOYD VERNON CAMP

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize Colonel Lloyd Vernon Camp for his years of distinguished service to his country. Lloyd recently passed away on Saturday, July 12th.

Colonel Camp is best remembered for his service with the U.S. Army. Lloyd entered the army during World War II. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and was nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor. He later served in the Korean conflict and then joined the California Army National Guard. In 1991, Lloyd acted as a Liaison Officer for the families of the soldiers in California's Central Valley while the soldiers were serving in Operation Desert Storm.

Colonel Camp received numerous awards and honors for his more than 45 years of service. He received the medal of the Order of St. Maurice from the National Infantry Association.

In 2002, Camp was inducted into the Officer Candidate Schools Hall of Fame where he was honored at a ceremony in Fort Benning, Georgia. Lloyd was a member of the Legion of Valor Museum in Fresno. A permanent plaque has been placed on a flag stand in front of the museum in his honor, and memorabilia from his career is currently on display.

Lloyd viewed life in this order: his love for God, his love for his family, and his love for his country. He is survived by his wife, Freida Camp, and his son, Rick Leetch.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Lloyd Vernon Camp for his valor and commitment. I invite my colleagues to join me in posthumously honoring Lloyd Camp for his extraordinary service and years of dedication to his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote 322, the resolution to provide consideration of H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act, I was unavoidably detained due to an urgent family matter. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE TOWN OF CUMBERLAND GAP, TN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic town of Cumberland Gap, TN as they celebrate their 200th anniversary of postal service.

Cumberland Gap has long been a place of historic passage. In pre-Colonial America, the Gap served Native Americans as a pivotal crossing for their trading and hunting routes through the Appalachian Mountains. Later, Daniel Boone and his 29 "axe men" blazed a 208 mile trail into central Kentucky providing a route for pioneer families to travel west. During the Civil War, Cumberland Gap gained military significance, becoming known as the "Gibraltar of America" and the "Keystone of the Confederacy."

Today however, in the age of flight, travelers through Cumberland Gap come not to get through the mountains, but to escape into them. The natural beauty of the surrounding area and the gap's rich cultural history make it a popular destination for travelers of all ages and interests. From hikers to historians, people continue to be drawn to the "gap between the mountains."

Time has almost stood still in the small Appalachian town of Cumberland Gap. As you walk through the quiet streets, you are greeted with architecture from the late 1800s and the 1920s. The streets are snap shots from the past, illustrating the progression of history even through today. The town's rich history, quiet charm, and natural beauty are especially appealing for cultural tourism.

Just as the historic parade marched through the gap for more than 200 years, the procession is not yet finished. Today the town of Cumberland Gap, the natural starting point for a journey into the Cumberland Gap National Park, is a haven for day hikers, adventure hikers, and cycle enthusiasts. Whether you are seeking history, culture or adventure, Cumberland Gap is always a great place to be.

On July 19th, this historic town celebrates 200 years of postal service with a day of interpretive presentations of what life was like in the early 1800s including "living history" exhibits throughout the town. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join them on this important day and I wish the town of Cumberland Gap many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TP I.W. SPUD AND MARY WOOD

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize two very special constituents, I.W. "Spud" and Mary Wood. On August 2 in Merced, CA. Spud and Mary will be celebrating with family and friends their 90th birthdays and their 70th wedding anniversary. These monumental events are being memorialized by their family who are traveling from both near and far.

Spud and Mary came to Merced, CA, in 1936 from Wheeler County, TX. In Merced, they made their home and have lived on their ranch for the past 64 years. They are the parents of three—Annetta Meyer, Myrna Aikins, and Kenneth, who is now deceased. Both Annetta and Myrna have a total of 5 children between them. Spud and Mary are the proud great grandparents of 8 which also includes one set of triplets.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor this wonderful family on this auspicious occasion. Our community benefits greatly from the splendid example they have set for us all. Marriages such as the Wood's form a sound foundation for our country and contribute greatly toward making this a better world in which to live. I wish both Spud and Mary my sincerest congratulations as they share these milestones in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JAMES EWALD

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major James "Chocks" Ewald of the Michigan Air National Guard for his exemplary service to our Nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On April 8, 2003, during one of the 30 sorties he flew over Iraq, Major Ewald's aircraft was struck by a surface-to-air missile. Major Ewald managed to continue flying the damaged aircraft for 12 minutes, eject before it crashed and evade capture until he was rescued.

In the face of extreme danger, Major Ewald's composure and commitment to fulfill his mission never faltered. Major Ewald is a tribute to the success of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Throughout his career in the United States military, Major Ewald has been unselfishly devoted to securing the safety and liberty of the American people.

On behalf of Michigan's Second Congressional District, I welcome Major Ewald home and offer appreciation for his heroic service to our Nation.

FCC DELAY IS UNCONSCIONABLE

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Communications Commission voted on February 20 to loosen some of the rules that inhibit the deployment of broadband services. This is good news for consumers everywhere, as more broadband means better Internet access, more choice, and better service. The February 20 vote starts the FCC down the road to true parity of broadband regulation.

The problem is that it is almost four months later and the order that was voted on has not been released. We had heard that the FCC was waiting to vote on the media ownership issue before completing the February 20 rule-making. The ownership vote took place last week June 2. What is the FCC waiting for?

This delay is simply unconscionable. As a comparison point, according to the National Council of State Legislatures' website <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/legman/about/sess2003.htm>, half of the State legislatures in this country have completed their entire legislative year in less time than the FCC has taken to write an order that it has already voted on. In addition to my own State of Virginia, where I served in the State legislature, the State legislatures of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming all complete their substantive legislative business in about 4 months or less. And yet, in that same amount of time, the FCC can't seem to agree on the words that give life to the order they voted on in February. I missed the part in civics class where it is harder to write the words of a regulatory order that has been agreed to than it is to conduct the entire annual business of a State.

The FCC needs to end this embarrassing delay, and make sure its rules do not inhibit the deployment of broadband services to consumers throughout the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 354, agreeing to the amendment

offered by Mr. REHBERG, the gentleman from Montana, striking the prohibition on mandatory country of origin labeling, to H.R. 2673, I inadvertently voted "yea" when it was my intent to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL STEPHEN R. PIETROPAOLI, U.S. NAVY, NAVY CHIEF OF INFORMATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of Rear Admiral Stephen R. Pietropaoli, the Navy's Chief of Information, who will retire later this year. Rear Admiral Pietropaoli's career has worn the cloth of the Nation for over 26 years, during which time he has distinguished himself as a sailor, a leader, and a trusted advisor to many senior Navy and DOD senior military and civilian officials.

Throughout his career, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli has excelled in numerous positions of great responsibility. Whether he was "driving ships" as a surface warfare officer; guiding and leading midshipmen as a teacher at the Naval ROTC program at the University of Pennsylvania; responding to media queries as the lead spokesman at the Navy's National News Desk; or providing thoughtful and wise public affairs advice and counsel as the public affairs officer to the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of the Navy, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli has always been widely recognized as the most trusted and respected military officer, national security expert and public affairs professional.

It was during his tour of duty at the Joint Chiefs of Staff where his stellar reputation was further solidified. Rear Admiral Pietropaoli served as the sole communications strategist and public affairs advisor for two Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. While working for Generals Shalikashvili and Shelton, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli developed messages for countless media briefings, congressional appearances and international trips. During this time, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military services used these messages to work successfully with the Congress to provide the largest pay raise in 20 years and to restore retirement benefits for service members that serve 20 years in the military.

In his final assignment as the Navy's Chief of Information, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli led a global team of 500 active duty, reserve and civilian public professionals. His personal leadership and actions gave the American public an extraordinary understanding of the sacrifices and contributions of our Sailors and Marines, and the capabilities of U.S. Naval forces in times of peace and war. His vision, leadership and dedication have raised the Department of the Navy's numerous worldwide public affairs operations to unprecedented levels of success. Without question, no other leader in the U.S. Navy had a greater impact on garnering departmental, congressional, and public support for key Navy issues and programs than Rear Admiral Pietropaoli.